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Mohammed Mossadegh, Ex-Premier of Iran, Dies

**Controversial Leader, 86,
Nationalized Oil Industry
in '51, Stirring Storm**

TEHERAN, Iran, March 5 (AP)—Dr. Mohammed Mossadegh, former Premier of Iran, died today at the age of 86.

A spokesman at Majmaieh Hospital said death had resulted from intestinal bleeding, a chronic illness he had suffered for 42 years.

On the orders of Shah Mohammed Riza Pahlevi, he was brought to Teheran several months ago for treatment of a sinus condition. He was taken to the hospital March 1 with intestinal bleeding. Doctors did not operate because of his age, a hospital spokesman said.

Overthrown in Rioting

For two turbulent years, Mohammed Mossadegh prevailed as the mercurial Premier of Iran, until he was overthrown during riotous street fighting in 1953.

A frail, bald, hawk-nosed man, Dr. Mossadegh rose to power in 1951 and quickly became a controversial center of international attention as he nationalized Britain's vast oil holdings in Iran. His regime was marked by extreme nationalism and intense emotionalism that brought Iran to the brink of political chaos and economic ruin.

Dr. Mossadegh frequently appeared in public wearing pajamas, and often burst into sobs or open weeping while speaking to his people or to reporters.

Through much of his regime, he held cabinet meetings while propped up in bed by three pillows and nourished by transfusions of American blood plasma. He favored pink pajamas, occasionally covered by a fawn-colored jacket, during these sessions.

Some observers attributed his odd dress and behavior to his chronic frail health. Others saw in his actions an obvious attempt to win sympathy and political support.

Iran's Parliament gave Dr. Mossadegh wide-ranging powers to cope with the deteriorating economic situation that resulted from the seizure of the British oil interests, but opposition to his leadership mounted and Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi tried to dismiss him as Premier.



The New York Times
Mohammed Mossadegh as Premier in 1951. Dr. Mossadegh frequently held meetings propped up in bed. Some attributed this to ill health, others to an appeal for sympathy.

Refused Dismissal

The wispy but iron-willed Dr. Mossadegh refused to accept the dismissal order, however, and the young Shah fled the country. A royalist uprising soon returned the Shah to the capital as Premier Mossadegh was toppled on Aug. 19, 1953.

Agents of the Central Intelligence Agency reportedly played a key role in the overthrow of Dr. Mossadegh.

The C.I.A. operation was said to have been directed by Kermit Roosevelt, grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt is supposed to have slipped into Iran secretly and masterminded the coup from a basement hiding place.

The United States has never admitted the C.I.A.'s role, but Allen W. Dulles, director of the agency at the time of the coup, hinted at it twice.

In a telecast on the Columbia Broadcasting System in 1962, he was asked whether it was true that "the C.I.A. people spent literally millions of dollars hiring people to riot in the streets and do other things to get rid of Mossadegh?"

"I can say that in state before 1951, few believed that Dr. Mossadegh ever would

In his book, "The Craft of Intelligence," Mr. Dulles wrote that outside aid was given to the Shah's supporters without saying directly that it came from the C.I.A.

On Nov. 8, Dr. Mossadegh came before a military tribunal on charges of treason and rebellion against the Shah. The deposed Premier appeared in court dressed in his famous padded bedjackets and alternately bellowed defiance, threatened suicide, challenged the public prosecutor to a wrestling match and resorted to histrionic weeping.

He was sentenced to three years of solitary confinement after a trial that lasted more than a month. He was released from prison in 1953, but remained under house arrest for many years in princely isolation on his estate west of Teheran.

His name came to public attention only twice, in recent years. The National Front, the party that he formerly headed, called for a neutral Iran in 1961, and in 1962 his supporters unsuccessfully opposed the Shah's plans for land and federal reform.

Nevertheless, on May 1, 1951, Dr. Mossadegh's law placing Iran's oil industry under state control went into effect. The vast oil refining complex of the British-controlled Anglo-Iranian Oil Company at Abadan was the largest installation involved. Dr. Mossadegh's father was Minister of Finance for 30 years to the Kadjar Shahs and his mother was a cousin of a Shah. After working for a few years in the office of the Iranian Collector of Taxes, he entered the School of Political Science at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Returning to Iran, Dr. Mossadegh held minor posts in connection with Government finance and by 1917 was Under Secretary of Finance. He was a member of two reform Parliaments in the nineteen-twenties after he had chosen the winning side in the 1920 coup that brought Riza Khan Pahlevi to power as a dictator.

A shift in Iran's ever-changing political scene resulted in Dr. Mossadegh's temporary arrest, which ended when he promised